43rd Night ◎ Chikuwa*

HE WAS GRINNING FROM EAR TO EAR WHEN HE ENTERED MY SHOP AND SAID THE FOLLOWING WORDS.

I TOOK A LIKING TO HIM RIGHT AWAY.

SURE, THAT'S NO PROBLEM AT ALL.

COULD I GET SOME CHIKUWA WITH CUCUMBER STUFFED INSIDE THE HOLE?

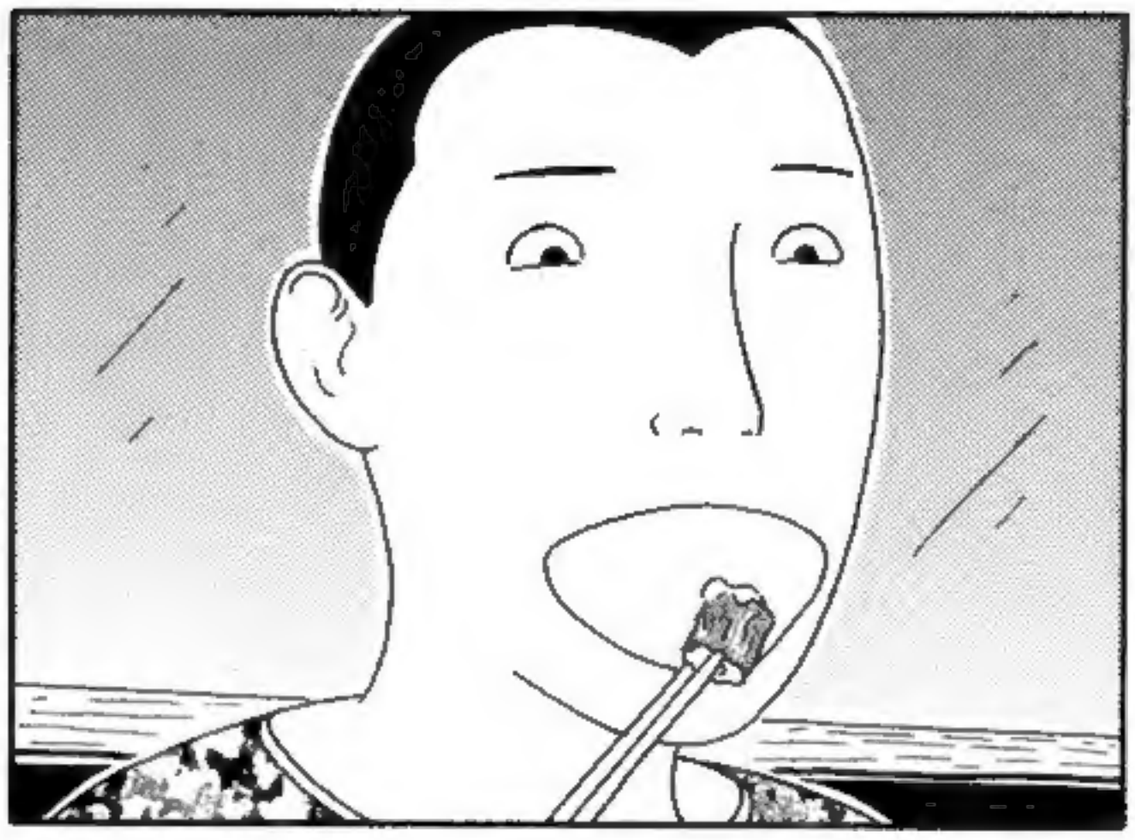
*T/N: CHIKUWA IS A MIXTURE OF SURIMI (FISH PASTE) THAT HAS BEEN WRAPPED AROUND A SKEWER PRIOR TO COOKING, RESULTING IN A TUBE-LIKE PRODUCT. IF YOU'RE FAMILIAR WITH KAMABOKO OR OTHER EAST ASIAN FISH CAKES, JUST IMAGINE ONE AS A BIT OF GARDEN HOSE.

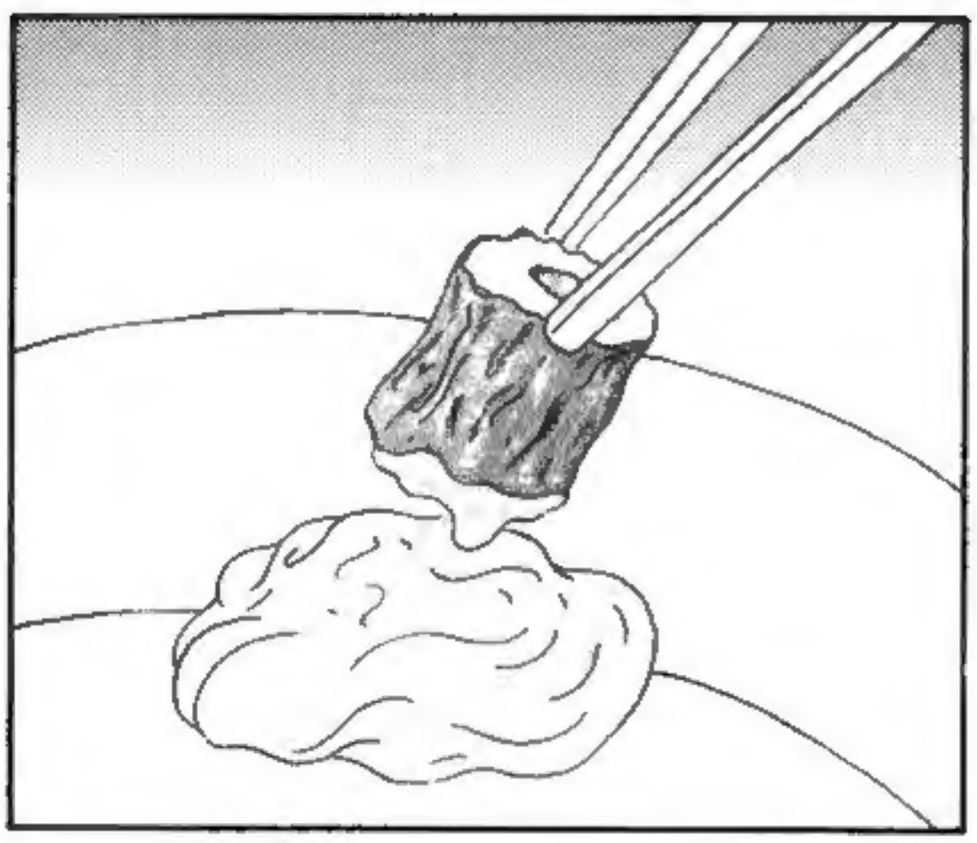
OF COURSE.

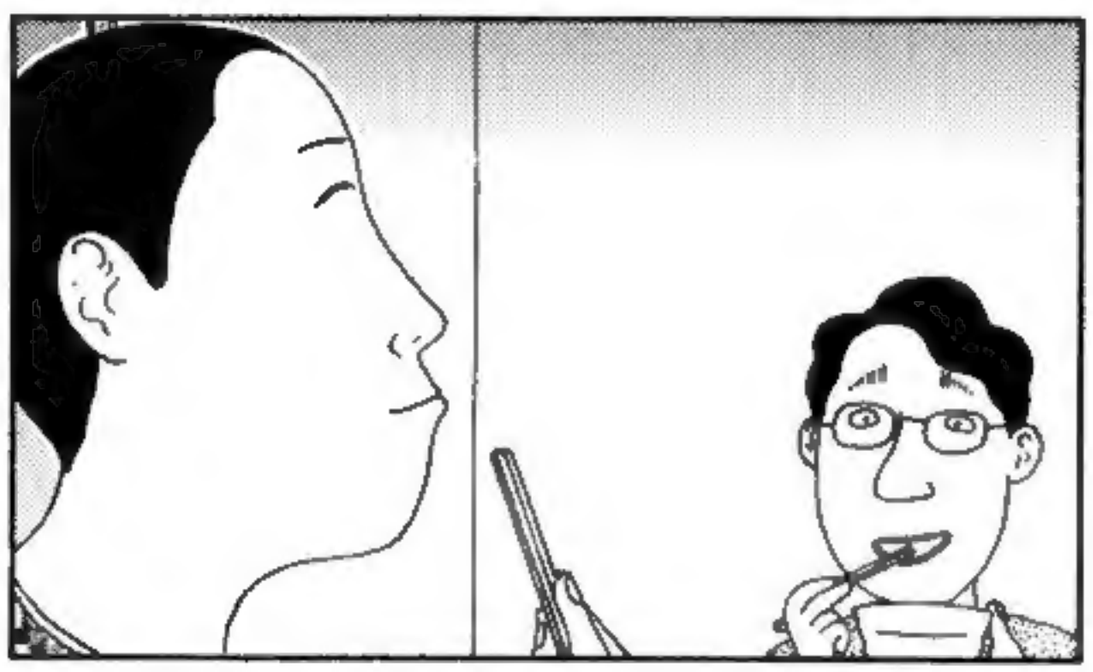
DO YOU WANT MAYO?

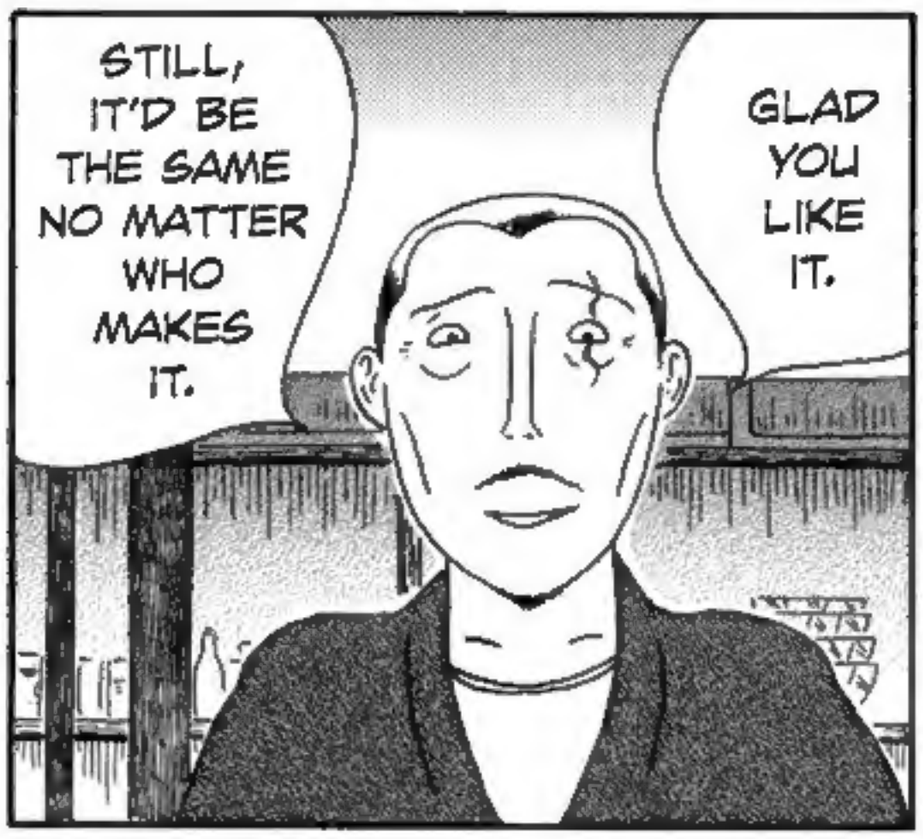
♪

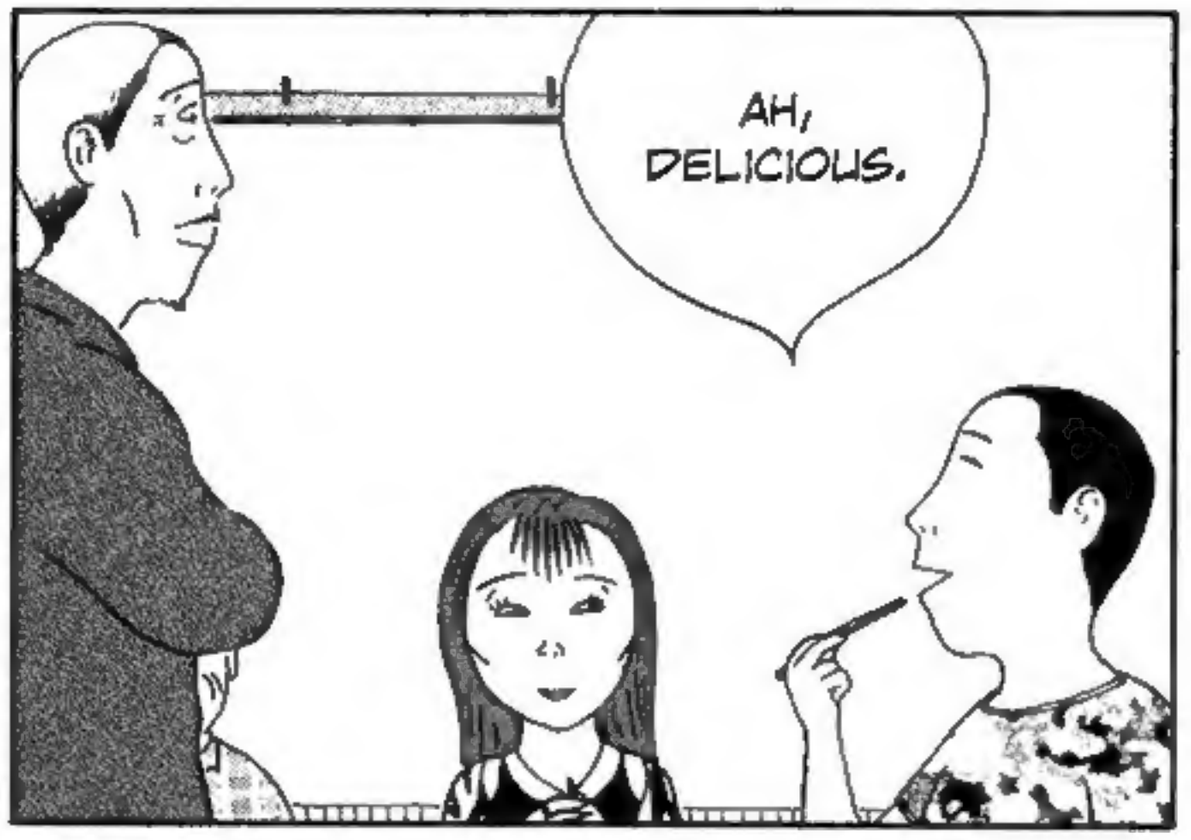
HERE YOU GO.








STILL, IT'D BE THE SAME NO MATTER WHO MAKES IT.
GLAD YOU LIKE IT.


AH, DELICIOUS.

AND ENDED UP ACCOMPANYING IT WITH EVERY LAST CHIKUWA IN THE SHOP BEFORE HE LEFT.
HE ALSO HAD A BOTTLE OF BEER THAT DAY,

MY OTHER PATRONS ALSO SEEMED TO APPROVE OF HIM.

MAYBE IT'D BE BETTER TO SAY THAT HE'S DOWN-TO-EARTH.

I LIKE HIM. HE'S STRAIGHT-FORWARD.

WHAT AN INTERESTING FELLOW.

WHENEVER HE CAME AGAIN, HE'D ALWAYS ORDER THE SAME THING, BUT HE NEVER TRIED ACTING LIKE A REGULAR BY ASKING FOR "THE USUAL".

HEY, WELCOME BACK.

I'LL HAVE SOME CUCUMBER-STUFFED CHIKUWA.

HE ALMOST ALWAYS ATE IN SILENCE, BUT OCCASIONALLY, HE'D HAVE SOMETHING INTERESTING TO SAY.

BACK IN KINDERGARTEN, A GIRL ONCE PROPOSED TO ME BY SAYING, "LET'S GET MARRIED."

A WEDDING RING!?

SINCE I ALSO LIKED HER, I SAID OKAY. AND THE NEXT DAY, I GAVE HER A WEDDING RING.

AHA...

HAH, I THOUGHT IT'D BE SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

YEAH. ONE MADE OF CHIKUWA.

Peck ♡

MAMA SAID IT WAS DIRTY AND THREW IT AWAY. NOW I CAN'T BE MARRIED TO YUUJI-KUN ANYMOOORE.

ヒック ヒック

SFX: SOB SOB

THE FOLLOWING DAY...

HOW'S THAT GIRL DOING NOWADAYS, THEN?

THAT'S ADORABLE!

ﾊﾟｸ

MOM TOLD ME SHE'S NOW MARRIED WITH THREE KIDS.

SFX: NOM

MY CUSTOMERS SURE TEND TO HAVE A BAD HABIT OF ORDERING WHATEVER IT IS SOMEONE ELSE IS EATING.

ME TOO.

AH, SAME HERE.

MASTER, GIMME SOME CUCUMBER-STUFFED CHIKUWA.

COULD I GET SOME CHEESE-STUFFED CHIKUWA?

ONE RAINY DAY...

BAR

SNACK

HAT

!?

EH?

HE DIDN'T SEEM TO BE IN THE MOOD FOR FURTHER CONVERSATION, SO I JUST KEPT SILENT AND WENT ABOUT STUFFING SOME CHIKUWA WITH CHEESE.

CHEESE, WAS IT?

YEAH, CHEESE...

HAA...

AFTER HE LEFT...

ボ

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ン

HE WAS SIGHING NON-STOP, THAT DAY.

SFX: DONNNG DONNNG DONNNG

THERE ARE TIMES WHEN YOU JUST WANT TO EAT SOMETHING DIFFERENT. HE DID SEEM RATHER WORN OUT TODAY, AFTER ALL.

I WONDER WHAT HAPPENED...

...

WELL, ALL SORTS OF THINGS WILL HAPPEN IN LIFE.

CHEESE-STUFFED CHIKUWA.

THE NEXT TIME HE CAME...

CUCUMBERS? I'VE NEVER LIKED CUCUMBERS.

YOU SEEM TO HAVE GONE OFF CUCUMBERS RECENTLY, HUH?

NATURALLY, I HAD BECOME QUITE CON-CERNED...

I'LL HAVE SOME CUCUMBER-STUFFED CHIKUWA.

HUH!?

SFX: CLATTER

EVEN THOUGH THEY WERE BOTH IN TOKYO, THEY APPARENTLY NEVER CONTACTED ONE ANOTHER...

THESE TWINS WERE REUNITED ENTIRELY BY CHANCE.

COMEDY... BUT RECENTLY, MY PARTNER'S BEEN THINKING OF QUITTING AND HEADING BACK TO HIS HOMETOWN.

I SEE...

WHAT ARE YOU DOING NOW, YUUJI?

ACTING. I'VE JOINED A THEATER TROUPE. AND YOU, YUUICHI?

Village Idiot Scans http://vi-scans.com

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AND I'M CUCUMBER. TOGETHER, WE ARE CHIKUWA~

I'M CHEESE.

AS A RESULT, THEY'VE STARTED APPEARING ON TV TOGETHER UNDER THE NAME OF "CHIKUWA". DO GIVE THEM YOUR SUPPORT.

深夜食堂（シンヤショクドウ）

3

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Hashiyasume ◎ Myouga*

I ONLY GO TO THE PUBLIC BATHS DURING THE DAY. THERE'S NOTHING QUITE LIKE THAT FEELING YOU GET WHEN THE ROOM IS BATHED IN THE GENTLE LIGHT OF THE AFTERNOON SUN.

Chinese Cuisine The Mainland

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!

MMM...

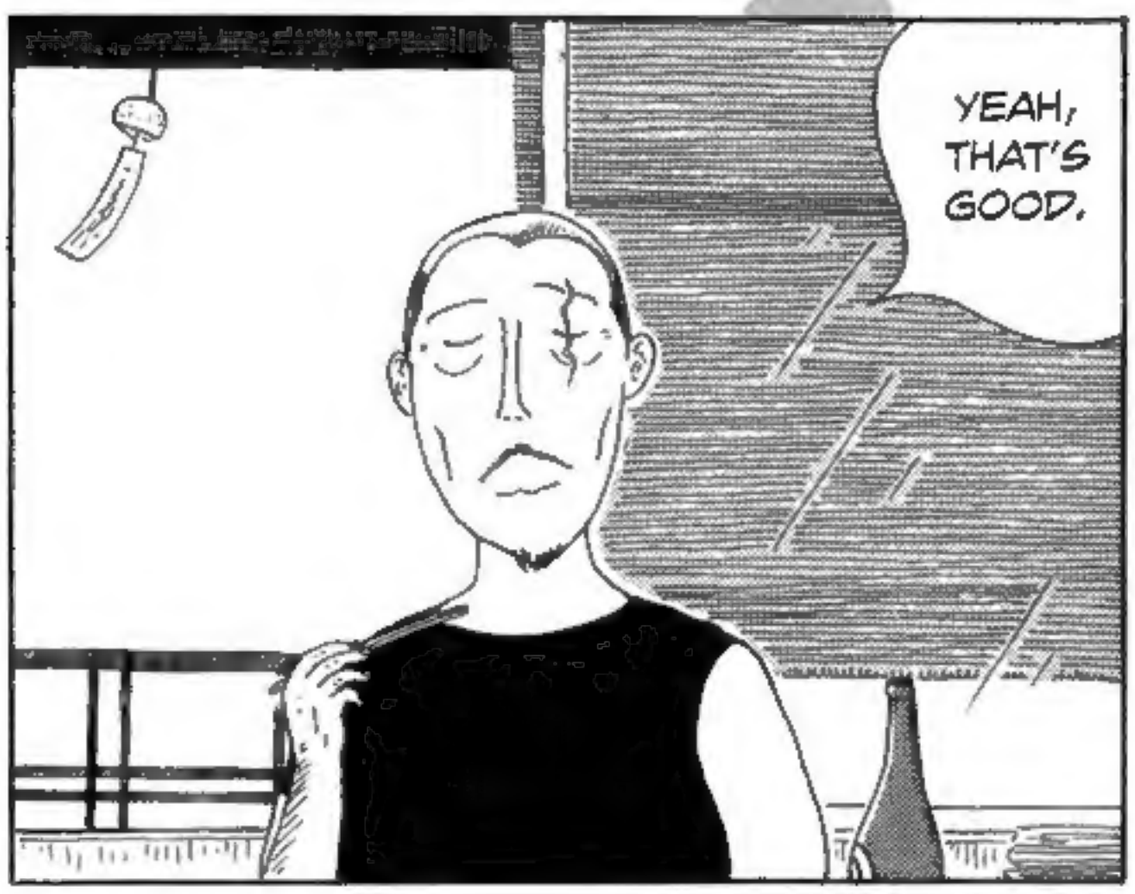
Katau Clinic

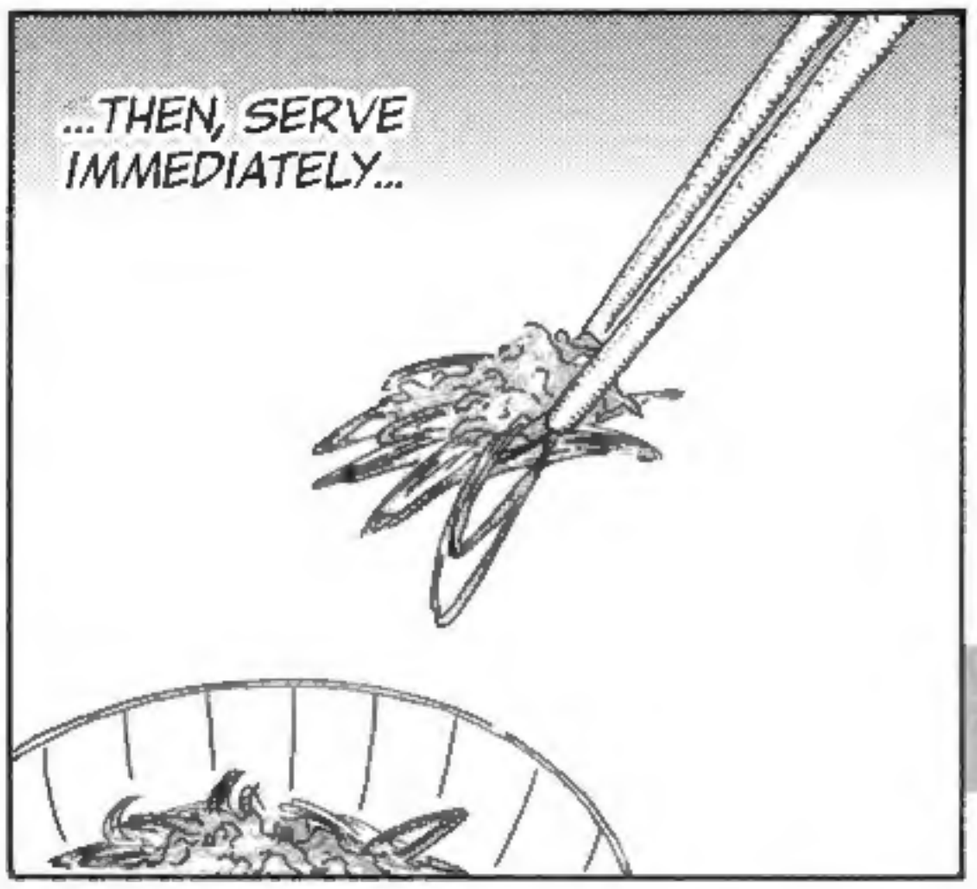
WHILE I'M SOAKING IN THE TUB, I THINK ABOUT WHAT I'LL HAVE AS A SNACK TO GO WITH MY BEER AFTER BATHING.

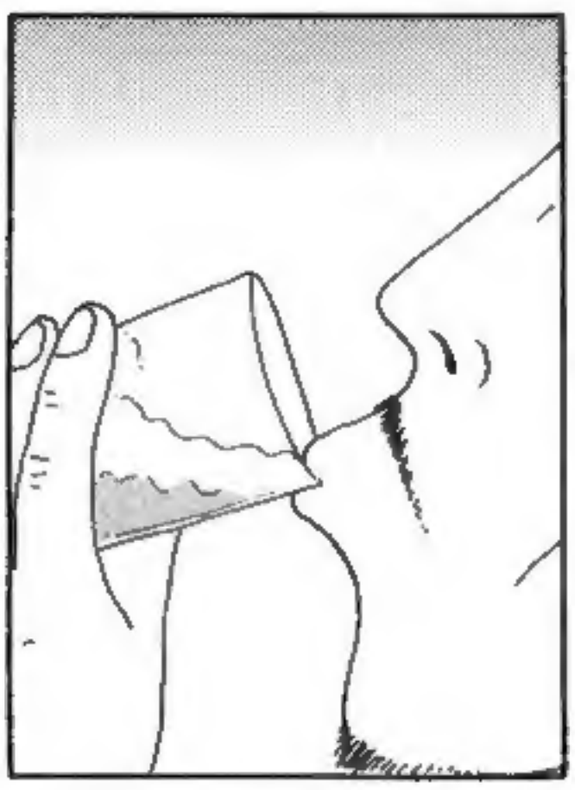
THEN, MAYBE TOP WITH KATSUOBUSHI AND A DRIZZLE OF SOY SAUCE!

FINELY SLICE SOME MYOUGA AND SOAK IN WATER...

*T/N: MYOUGA (ZINGIBER MIOGA) IS A TYPE OF GINGER, BUT ONLY FLOWER BUDS AND STEMS ARE USED IN COOKING. ACCORDING TO SUPERSTITION, EATING IT CAUSES FORGETFULNESS.







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